

The Drummer 6/17/75

Attorney Mark Lane, a veteran researcher into the assassination of President John Kennedy, has uncovered and released new information which he says links Jack Ruby to members of organized crime. Lane has released a copy of the Chicago Daily Tribune, dated December 9th of 1939. That edition of the Tribune reports about the gangland slaying of a Chicago labor union organizer named Leon Cooke.

The Tribune on page two of the same edition runs pictures of two men in connection with the shooting. One of the men is the victim, Leon Cooke; and the other is Jack Ruby - described by the Tribune as "seized for questioning" in the case. Ruby, who called himself Jack Rubinstein at the time, was the secretary of the union.

Lane further points out that Robert Kennedy in 1960, three years before his brother's assassination, wrote a book about organized crime figures. In that book, entitled The Enemy Within, Robert Kennedy states that the murder of Cooke in Chicago enabled the Chicago underworld to take over that labor union. Despite the Tribune's front page story about Ruby's involvement in the Cooke murder case, the Warren Commission was told by the F.B.I in 1964 that there were no police records in Chicago connecting Ruby or Rubinstein to that case.

A jockey-sized murder suspect escaped from his jail cell in Bridgeport, Connecticut, this week by buttering his body and then sliding through the bars of his cell. Police say that 42-year-old Bella Krager, 5-foot-one and 130 pounds, saved up butter from his jail meals, covered himself with it early one morning and literally slipped away.

One of America's largest brothels - the famous Mustang Ranch in Storey County, Nevada - has decided to practice racial discrimination. The highly-successful bordello has announced plans to rebuild an entirely new mustang ranch about a mile from its current location - and owner Joe Conforte says the new ranch will feature two parlors instead of one.

Conforte's plans, which have already been approved by the Storey County building inspector, calls for the construction of a "main parlor" and a "colored parlor." Whites, Conforte says, will be able to choose a bed mate in the main parlor while blacks will use the "colored" one. Building Inspector Jerry Harwood, who has approved the plans, says his office doesn't worry about possible violations of civil rights laws. Says Harwood: "I figure the first time a colored fellow goes in there, he'll squawk - and then it'll all get straightened out."

A New York research group has filed a report with a Phoenix court, claiming that death is one of the most exhilarating and pleasurable experiences in life. The unusual report has been filed by the American Society for Physical Research. The society, back in 1971, was awarded \$275,000 by the Phoenix court on the condition that the money be used in an effort to prove that the human soul exists. The society's latest report says its preliminary experiments indicate that death is an experience of "incredible freedom, harmony and wholeness."

The report goes on to say that researchers with the society have interviewed hundreds of doctors who related first-hand accounts of the visions repeated by dying patients. The society says it has documented 319 cases in which dying patients saw apparitions.

The report says that the death experience is one of "visions, perceptions or increased brightness, very intense saturated colors, elation and feelings of indescribable freedom, harmony and wholeness."

American Medical Association is out with a warning that people should avoid all rock concerts. The April edition of The Journal of the American Medical Association says that the high amplification of music at rock concerts can be dangerous to your hearing.

Banks around the U.S. have come up with a new weapon in their arsenal against robbers: It's a tear gas grenade that comes hidden in a phony packet of money.

To unsuspecting robbers, the new weapon looks like a packet of bills worth \$5,000. All a teller has to do, however, is activate the packet before handing it over and - a few minutes later - tear gas comes spewing out to incapacitate the bandits. The company which makes the packets, called Teargads, is so confident that they'll work that it promises to reimburse banks up to \$5000 if the robbers somehow manage to get away.

IGLOO MADNESS... The legislature in Alaska has approved a bill to remove criminal penalties for possessing small amounts of marijuana. When enacted, Alaska will become the second state in this country to decriminalize private marijuana possession. Under the new measure, arrests, arrest records, and jail sentences would be eliminated with violators subjected only to a civil fine. Penalties against selling marijuana would remain unchanged.

The Alaskan bill is similar in concept and approach to the nation's first decriminalization law enacted in Oregon in 1973. Enforcement, like a traffic violation, is with a citation system instead of an arrest. The measure now awaits action by the governor.